



California 2012 Annual Performance Report Summary

Lead Agency: California Department of Education

Participating State Agencies: California State Board of Education, California Department of Education, California Department of Developmental Services, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Public Health, First 5 California, and the State Advisory Council.

Amount of Grant: \$52,572,935

Focused Investment Areas Addressed:

- (C)(1) Developing and using statewide, high-quality Early Learning and Development Standards.
- (C)(3) Identifying and addressing the health, behavioral, and developmental needs of Children with High Needs to improve school readiness.
- (D)(2) Supporting Early Childhood Educators in improving their knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- (E)(1) Understanding the status of children's learning and development at kindergarten entry.

Highlights of 2012 Accomplishments (excerpted from Executive Summary):

- **Quality Continuum Framework (Framework)/Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS):** The Consortia, along with the Implementation Team, made significant progress in California's Framework development including finalizing the Three Common Tiers across all the Consortia, moving to a hybrid system, streamlining the number of elements on which to be rated – "the few and powerful", and creating corresponding Quality Improvement and Professional Development Pathways (Pathways).

The Consortia solicited local community feedback on the hybrid model, which built consensus and support for the streamlined Three Common Tiers as well as the locally determined tiers. Many consortia stated their excitement with the end product, the RTT-ELC Quality Continuum Framework Consortia Hybrid Matrix with Three Common Tiers (Hybrid Matrix or TQRIS), and were pleased that local stakeholders could see their feedback reflected in the creation of a "more solid, practical TQRIS."

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Building of Local Consortia:** The Consortia are engaging a broad array of stakeholders in the introduction of TQRIS and in the development of their local TQRIS. Consortia are proud of the strong participation in their community stakeholder meetings, focus groups, surveys, and planning team efforts. They convened extensive and inclusive community consortium meetings and brought together all the stakeholders who operate existing quality enhancement programs, providers and parents who use those programs, and other community agencies.

Consortia have actively increased involvement to include representatives from more unique partners such as business community members (e.g. the Southern California Gas Company and the San Diego Economic Development Corporation), the League of Women Voters, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- **Communication Strategies and Community Outreach:** The Consortia and the Implementation Team worked on multiple initial communication strategies. This included developing the RTT-ELC Fact Sheet, a meeting with Legislative staff to brief them on RTT-ELC, highlighting RTT-ELC via presentations at state and local conferences, developing Web sites, and developing logos. Some consortia contracted with other agencies to develop a brand presence and coordinate marketing and sustainability strategies. Other consortia developed logos specifically for their TQRIS initiative.
- **Local QRIS Implementation:** Progress was made at the local level in developing local TQRIS databases; outreach and engagement of sites; launching orientation sessions and communication regarding the TQRIS; conducting program and classroom baseline assessments based on the TQRIS; launching initial training and technical assistance (T&TA); fully integrating of local quality improvement and workforce development funding streams; and forging relationships with institutes of higher education, with expanded course offerings being explored.

Over half of the Consortia reported moving forward with their local RTT-ELC Action Plans and quickly adapting to the Hybrid Matrix. Several consortia have begun their program and classroom baseline assessments. Local consortia are exploring the infrastructures needed to support marketing, cohort selection, higher education, and training for their local TQRIS.

- **Leveraging and Aligning with Other Efforts:** RTT-ELC provides an unprecedented opportunity to refocus existing public and private investments on evidence-based and promising practices. The key quality improvement tools, such as the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS), integral to the adopted Hybrid Matrix now serve as a common foundation to align the work of other existing quality improvement efforts.

Locally, the Consortia have begun to fully integrate multiple funding streams from the federal, state, and local level into a comprehensive local quality improvement system – their TQRIS. Most of the Consortia are using the local TQRIS as a framework for all their other quality efforts and using the definition of quality developed for RTT-ELC. Some consortia expressed that RTT-ELC has become a catalyst in leveraging existing programs such as the First 5 California (F5CA) Child Signature Program (CSP), F5CA Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus, and grant funding.

Existing additional quality enhancement projects are updating their requirements to align with the requirements of RTT-ELC to create consistency across local publicly funded projects. Consortia have aligned these services to: ensure participants are prepared to be rated via the local TQRIS; support quality improvement in the participating early learning and development programs; and expand access to screenings and health care services.

Some local consortia received additional grants or other awards. For example, the Orange County Department of Education secured additional grant funding through the Boeing Charitable Trust and the American Academy of Pediatrics.